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Comdr. C. S. Sperry, at Manila
Yosemite, American converted cruiser, 10 guns,
3,800 h.p., Captain G. E. Ide, at Guam
Zahab, Russian cruiser, 20 guns, 2,000 h.p.,
Capt. Shkruft, at Port Arthur
Zafiro, American despatch vessel, Master A. M.
Whitton, at Hongkong

SUPREME COURT.

24th January.

IN ORIGINAL JURISDICTION.

BEFORE HIS HONOR W. MEIGH-GOODMAN
(ACTING CHIEF JUSTICE) AND
A SPECIAL JURY.ALLEGED LIBEL BY A CHINESE
NEWSPAPER.

In this case U. Norvegna, of Wyndham Street, merchant, claimed from Wong Shu Tong, of 14, Praya Central, as proprietor of the *Tsun Wan Yat Po*, and Ng Sai Jung, of 39, Gough Street, as printer and publisher of the said newspaper, damages for libel.

The following composed the jury:—Messrs J. Orange (foreman), F. D. Goddard, D. W. Craddock, V. A. Caesar-Hawkins, John Thurburn, A. Turner, and E. Osborne. It was agreed that the jurors should be remunerated at the rate of \$10 a day each. Mr. Slade (instructed by Messrs. Mounsey and Brutton) appeared for the plaintiff, and Mr. Robinson for Mr. Francis, Q.C. (instructed by Mr. C. Ewins), appeared for the defendants, Mr. Robinson for the first defendant and Mr. Francis for the second.

Mr. Slade read the pleadings in the case. Paragraph 3 of the petition said, "The plaintiff on or about the 24th March, 1897, was appointed merchant consul for Italy without salary for Hongkong, and in the beginning of July 1898, was further appointed merchant consul for Italy without salary for the two provinces of Kwangtung and Kwangsi, in the empire of China." Paragraph 4 said, "In the beginning of August, 1898, the plaintiff at his own request was relieved of his office of consul for the said provinces of Kwangtung and Kwangsi, and was succeeded by Lieutenant Ginda, and on or about the 6th June, 1899, was relieved of his office of consul for Hongkong and was succeeded by Mr. E. Volpicelli, a member of the regular Italian interpreter service." Paragraph 5 said, "During the time in which the plaintiff was acting as Italian consul at Canton he has carried on and still carries on his business as a merchant dealing in coals and general merchandise, and trading largely with Chinese customers in Canton and in Wuchow and other ports on the West River." Paragraph 6 said, "On the 9th day of June, 1899, the defendants falsely and maliciously printed and published or caused to be printed and published of the plaintiff, in respect to the plaintiff in his said business as a merchant, in the said newspaper called the *Tsun Wan Yat Po*, which has a wide circulation in Hongkong and Canton and adjacent ports and in the ports and districts adjacent to the West River, the following words in the Chinese language: 'Then followed the words complained of.' Paragraph 7 said, 'The following is a translation of the said words: 'We learn that a certain merchant who has once acted as Italian Consul at Canton has in consequence of certain affairs been reprimanded and dismissed. Recently the said merchant has conspired with the Chinese to work a certain coal mine, and relying on the protection of a foreign flag resisted and refused to pay taxes. This the high authorities have found out from enquiries made, and decided to thoroughly investigate the matter. It is not known what may happen afterwards.'

He said words were so understood by those to whom they were published, and mean that the plaintiff in his business and as Italian consul has been guilty of dishonourable and dishonest practices, and has on account of such practices been dismissed in disgrace from his office of consul; that the plaintiff and the Chinese with whom he had business relations had been guilty of a conspiracy to defraud, and in fact defrauding the revenue of the Imperial Chinese Government; that the high authorities of the provinces of Kwangtung and Kwangsi—meaning thereby the Viceroy of Canton and his ministers—found this out, and in consequence caused the plaintiff to be dismissed from his office of consul; that enquiries were still being prosecuted into the action of the plaintiff and his Chinese associates; and that it was not yet known what punishment would be inflicted on the Chinese who should be found to have had business relations with the plaintiff, and the whole paragraph purports to be, and was understood by the readers thereof to be issued or inspired by the said high authorities as a notice and as a warning to persons intending to deal with the plaintiff that the plaintiff and the persons dealing with him had incurred their displeasure; and that the plaintiff had been in consequence degraded from his official rank at their instance; that persons who had dealt with the plaintiff had rendered themselves liable to punishment; that the plaintiff in consequence of his degradation was now a person of no account, and could no longer obtain any protection from the Italian flag; and that any person having business relations with the plaintiff would be liable to be suspected of illegal proceedings, and to incur the displeasure of the said high authorities."

Paragraph 8 said, "On the date of the publication of the aforesaid defamatory words by the defendants one An Lap Sam had given to the plaintiff orders for 5,000 rifles, but in consequence of the said publication the said An Lap Sam refused to complete the said order, whereby the plaintiff has suffered damage to the amount of \$5,000." Paragraph 9 said, "At the date of the publication of the aforesaid defamatory words by the defendants, the Kwong Tung Sun Tai firm had given to the plaintiff orders for 2,000 barrels of cement, 3,000 revolvers, and 400 casks of nails, but in consequence of the said publication the said firm has refused to complete the said orders, whereby the plaintiff has suffered damage to the amount of \$1,970." Paragraph 10 said, "Prior to the publication of the aforesaid defamatory words by the defendants, the plaintiff had considerable business transactions with the said Kwong Tung Sun Tai firm, from which he had derived large profits, and the said firm would have continued to deal with the plaintiff and the plaintiff to derive large profits, and owing to the said publication the said firm refused to have any further transaction with the plaintiff, and the plaintiff has lost the profits which he would otherwise have made thereby, and Chinese merchants and traders in Canton and the West River ports are afraid to deal with the plaintiff, and the plaintiff has been seriously injured in his credit and reputation and in his said business as a merchant, and claims \$12,000 damages. The plaintiff, therefore, prays (1) that the defendant may be ordered to pay to the plaintiff \$18,970; (2) that the plaintiff may have such further and other relief as to this honourable court may seem fit." In their answer the defendants said they had no personal knowledge of and did not admit the facts alleged in paragraphs 3, 4, and 5 of the petition. Paragraph 4 of the answer said, "The defendant Ng Sai Jung admits having printed and published in the *Tsun Wan Yat Po* newspaper the Chinese words set out in paragraph 6 of the petition, but he has no knowledge and does not admit that they refer to the plaintiff, and further says that if such words do refer to the plaintiff that they are not libellous in their natural signification, and denies that they bear the defamatory meaning alleged in paragraph 7 of the petition. He does not admit the correctness of the translation into English contained in paragraph 7 of the petition." Paragraph 5 of the answer said, "The defendant Wong Shu Tong denies having printed or published the Chinese words set out in paragraph 6 of the petition, and save as aforesaid for further answer relies on the allegations contained in paragraph 4 hereof." Paragraph 6 said, "The defendants deny the fact alleged in paragraphs 8, 9, and 10 of the petition." Continuing, Mr. Slade mentioned the various points which it would be for the jury to consider, viz., as to whether the extracts from the Chinese newspaper in question had been correctly translated or not, the translation having been made by the court translator; whether or not the words were libellous; and next the amount of the damages.

The plaintiff gave evidence bearing out the allegations in the petition, and was cross-examined at considerable length. The hearing had not concluded when the court rose.

"If the Victoria Cross were granted for each case of conspicuous gallantry at Magersfontein," says a correspondent with Methuen, "it would be necessary to distribute it by hundreds, for never in the history of war have so many acts of individual heroism been achieved."

A corporal of the South Highlanders was taken prisoner by the Boers, who took away his rifle and put him in the trenches in charge of one of their sentries. When the others retired, the corporal was left alone in the trenches, and the hands of the Boer, stabbed him, and escaped to the British lines.

SCIENTIFIC MISCELLANY.

SCIENCE IN ART, EARLY CEMENT, LIME AND MALARIA, A CHEMIST'S MAGIC, A LOCKJAW CURE, A UNIVERSAL POISON ANTIDOTE, TEST OF EYE FAIGUE, SILK WORM GUT, A HYDROFLUORIC BATTERY, ELECTRICITY AND ANIMAL GROWTH, HEAT-SAVING ENGINES.

A special study of colors and their chemistry has been made by J. G. Vibert, the great French painter. He finds that the ancient painters, of the time of Apelles, had only four colors—chalk white, yellow ochre, red ochre, and black. In Pliny's time there had been added different shades of white, lead white and its combinations, massicot, minium, vermilion (red and yellow sulphide of arsenic), and purple lakes (made from shells) natural and burnt ochers, cinnabar, indigo, powdered emerald blue, verdigris, brown earths, ivory black and other blacks, and sepia. Later came the red lakes, made from cochineal and from madder, and the vegetable yellow lakes, also the true ultramarine blue from the costly lapis lazuli. A chest in the museum of Antwerp contains a collection of the colors used by Rubens, and of these white lead, cinnabar, lapis (ultramarine), the madder lakes, the earths and the ochers have proven very durable, while the vegetable yellows, reds and greens have faded and vanished. Of the many colors brought out since Rubens' time, those of aniline—so often brilliant but deceptive mixtures—are held to have been an unfortunate addition for art. It is concluded that the finest colors are those of pure pigment, with a little linseed or poppy oil as a medium, and that the mineral colors—unlike those from vegetable substances—are generally permanent, but hard to get in purity.

A number of samples of cement from the ancient water conduits of Ephesus and Smyrna have been analyzed, proving to be of similar composition, although ranging in date from several hundred years before Christ to three centuries after. The samples were found to be chiefly lime, with a small proportion of fatty acids. Experiments indicate that the cement was a mixture of two parts of slag or lime with one part of olive oil as this was hard and durable. Treatment of soil with lime has been suggested to the Paris Academy of Sciences as a possible remedy for malaria, as it has been noticed that countries having a surface rich in lime are free from this malady.

A clever X-ray trick is described by Dr. Gustave Michard in the *Scientific American*. To lighten the effect a lamp may be placed behind the sitter, in front of whom is then held the apparatus, which looks like the lens tube of a camera with a sheet of white paper exposed in full view as the plate, and the rubber bulb, apparently operating a pneumatic shutter, is pressed. The result is startling—a picture of the subject's internal organs flashing instantaneously into view in strong colors. The picture is previously painted on the paper with invisible ink—a diluted solution of sulphocyanide of potassium being used for the lungs, a more concentrated solution of the same salt for the heart and the principal arteries, a solution of potassium for the large veins, and a weaker solution of the same salt for the stomach and a few intestinal coils. For the rest of the body is used a concentrated solution of tannin. The tube really contains only a small atomizer, and pressure on the bulb forces from this upon the paper an invisible spray of ferric chloride solution, producing well-known chemical reactions.

In a case reported by Dr. Woods, the only patient he had seen to recover from tetanus was treated by hypodermic injections of ten per cent. solution of carbolic acid every half-hour, except when quiet at night, until able to swallow. A dram of the solution in glycerine was then administered every three hours until the spasms ceased, and after that less frequent and smaller doses until all rigidity had disappeared. Like treatment proved effective in a case of tetanus in a horse.

Milk containing five per cent. of borax is proposed by Mr. Ed. Crouzel as a general antidote to poisons. Boric acid is precipitated as an insoluble borate by most mineral bases. The case in of milk coagulates with toxic acids, and also forms insoluble casinates with mineral bases, while the fatty character of milk prevents irritant substance from taking too much effect.

The number of wrinkles in a given time is found by Kotz, a Russian physician, to furnish a fairly caused by various illuminants. This method gave the following unexpected results from readings of ten minutes: With a candle, 6.8 wrinkles per minute; city gas 2.8; sunlight, 2.2; electric light, 1.8.

A peculiar industry of the island of Procida is the manufacture of fine silk threads from the stomachs of silkworms. The worm, just before the time of its metamorphosis, is cut open, and the membrane of the stomach is carefully removed and pickled by a secret process. Holding one end in the teeth and drawing the other with the hands, the work-people then work the tissue into threads of considerable length. The threads are prized for strength and flexibility, and find a market in Northern Italy at about \$15.00 a pound. They are used for fishing tackle, brushes, etc. Production is expensive, as the worms must be taken at the time of their greatest value for silk-making, and the various operations demand much labour by skilled hands.

A new primary battery, patented by E. L. Anderson, has as the negative electrode a carbon cylinder, surrounding which is a lead cylinder that serves as the positive electrode. The electrolyte consists of one part of hydrofluoric acid mixed with three parts of water, with the addition of about two parts of boric acid. A source of oxygen is also added, such as chromic acid, potassium permanganate or atmospheric air.

Animals treated by electricity by a German experimenter have shown an increase of growth of 18 to 24 per cent. under certain conditions. The animals were placed in a cage through which an alternating current was passed six hours a day. A stronger current produced depression and retarded growth.

"Heat accumulators" are claimed to save 15 to 20 per cent. in the full consumption of locomotives on a Russian railway, while the weight of trains has been increased by a similar percentage. A water-filled steel reservoir of about 330 gallons is placed over the boiler, and is heated by the steam not used to drive the engine. All feed-water passes through it.

A new species of tobacco, *Nicotiana Stocktoni*, has been discovered by Mr. A. L. Stockton on Socorro Island of the Pacific coast. The number of species of tobacco now known to botanists is about one hundred.

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BEKANNTMACHUNG.

DIE BEKANNTMACHUNGEN aus
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andere gesetzlich vorgeschriebene Veröffentlich-
ungen werden im Jahre 1900 durch den
"OSTASIATISCHEN LLOYD" und die "HONG-
KONG DAILY PRESS" erfolgen.
Swatow, den 19. December 1899.
DER KAISERLICH DEUTSCHEN KONSUL, I. 7.
32071 H. VON VARCHMIN.

BEKANNTMACHUNG.

DIE EINTRAGUNGEN in das Handels-
register sowie anderweitige Bekannt-
machungen des Kaiserlichen Konsulats werden
im Jahre 1900 durch die Zeitungen "Der
OSTASIATISCHEN LLOYD" in Shanghai und
"Die HONGKONG DAILY PRESS" in Hong-
kong veröffentlicht werden.
Canton den 27. December, 1899.
DER VERWESER DES KAISERLICHEN
KONSULATS,
ZIMMERMANN.

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